

FORM PTO-1390
(REV 3/2001)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES
DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)
CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371**

DATE: May 21, 2001

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ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.

36483/KMO/T67

U.S. APPLICATION NO.

Not Yet Assigned

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.

PCT/US99/27426

INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE

19 November 1999

PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED

20 November 1998

TITLE OF INVENTION

DRIP IRRIGATION HOSE WITH ROOT DETERRENT STRIP

APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US

Alan F. Robb

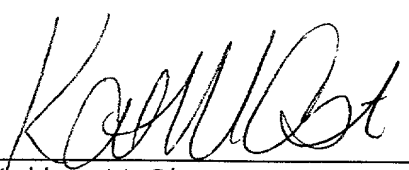
Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

1. ☒ This is a **FIRST** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
2. ☐ This is a **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
3. ☒ This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1).
4. ☒ A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date.
5. ☒ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
 - a. ☐ is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☒ has been transmitted by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☒ is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/LUS).
6. ☐ A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
7. ☒ A copy of the International Search Report (PCT/ISA/210).
8. ☐ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
 - a. ☐ are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☐ have been transmitted by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
 - d. ☐ have not been made and will not be made.
9. ☐ A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
10. ☒ An unexecuted oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).
11. ☒ A copy of the International Preliminary Examination Report (PCT/IPEA/409).
12. ☐ A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).

Items 13 to 20 below concern document(s) or other information included:

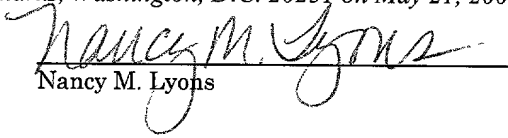
13. ☒ An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
14. ☐ An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
15. ☒ A **FIRST** preliminary amendment.
16. ☐ A **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** preliminary amendment.
17. ☐ A substitute specification.
18. ☐ A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
19. ☐ SMALL ENTITY Assertion: Applicant(s) and any other associated with it/them under 37 CFR § 1.27(a) are a small entity.
20. ☒ Certificate of Mailing by Express Mail.
21. ☐ Other items or information:

T0230" 243530

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 CFR 1.5) Not Yet Assigned 09/856428		INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/US99/27426		ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 36483/KMO/T67	
21. The following fees are submitted: <input type="checkbox"/> Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO: \$1,000.00 <input type="checkbox"/> International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO: \$860.00 <input type="checkbox"/> International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO: \$710.00 <input type="checkbox"/> International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4): \$690.00 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4): \$100.00 ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT = \$100.00				CALCULATIONS	
				PTO USE ONLY	
Surcharge of \$130 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).				\$130.00	
Claims	Number Filed	Number Extra	Rate		
Total Claims	17 -20=	0	X \$18	\$	-0-
Independent Claims	2 -3=	0	X \$80	\$	-0-
Multiple dependent claim(s) (if applicable)			+ \$270	\$	-0-
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =				\$230.00	
Reduction by 1/2 for filing by small entity, if applicable. Verified Small entity statement must also be filed. (Note 37 CFR 1.9, 1.27, 1.28).				\$ -0-	
SUBTOTAL =				\$	
Processing fee of \$130 for furnishing the English translation later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).				\$	
TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =				\$230.00	
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property				\$	
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =				\$230.00	
Note (1): The basic national fee must be paid when filing this application. The 20-month time limit (37 CFR § 1.494) and 30-month time limit (37 CFR § 1.495) are not extendable.				Amount to be:	
				refunded	\$
				charged	\$
a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of \$ 230.00 to cover the above fees is enclosed. b. <input type="checkbox"/> Please charge my Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 03-1728 . A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.					
NOTE (2): Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.					
SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:					
Kathleen M. Olster CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE P.O. Box 7068 Pasadena, CA 91109-7068 CUSTOMER NUMBER: 23363			By  Kathleen M. Olster Reg. No. 42,052		

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" under 37 CFR § 1.10 Mailing Label No. EM341128384US in an envelope addressed to Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231 on May 21, 2001.


Nancy M. Lyons

Applicant : Alan F. Robb
Application No. : Not Yet Assigned
Filed : Concurrently herewith
Title : DRIP IRRIGATION HOSE WITH ROOT
DETERRENT STRIP

Grp./Div. : Not Yet Assigned
Examiner : Not Yet Assigned

Docket No. : 36483/KMO/T67

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Post Office Box 7068
Pasadena, CA 91109-7068
May 21, 2001

Commissioner:

Prior to the examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Specification:

On Page 1, prior to the section entitled "BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION", please insert the following new section:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims priority of International Application No. PCT/US99/27426, filed November 19, 1999, which claims priority of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/109,667, filed November 20, 1998, the entire disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference.

Application No. Not Yet Assigned

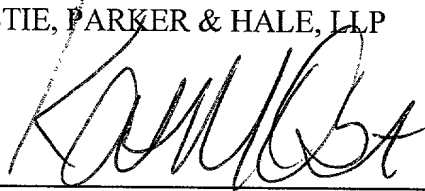
REMARKS

The specification has been amended to cross-reference related applications. The amendments find full support in the original specification and claims. No new matter is presented. In view of the above amendments, favorable examination is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP

By



Kathleen M. Olster

Reg. No. 42,052

626/795-9900

KMO/nml

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DRIP IRRIGATION HOSE WITH ROOT DETERRENT STRIP

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Drip irrigation systems have come into widespread use in the agricultural area. Drip irrigation systems supply water at a slow, controlled rate to the root zone of the particular plants being irrigated. Typically, drip irrigation is accomplished by providing a low volume water outlet at each plant that permits a limited dripping of water directly to the root zone of the particular plant. These hoses are usually installed slightly underground to protect them from wind, rodents, sun and machinery and to aid the flow of the water into the soil.

One of the problems with such a drip irrigation installation is that, if the farmer does not irrigate enough to satisfy the needs of the plants, roots will grow to find more water. As the hose usually has some residual water left in it, the roots will seek the water, entering the water outlet and eventually plugging it. When this process starts, uniformity of water distribution becomes erratic, and shortly unsatisfactory crop response results.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides a novel solution to root ingrowth. In one embodiment, the invention is directed to a drip irrigation hose having an interior surface, an exterior surface and a water supply passage extending therethrough. One or more outlets are provided that connect the water supply passage to the exterior of the hose. One or more root deterrent strips are attached to the interior surface or the exterior surface of the hose at or near the outlets. Each root deterrent strip comprises a fabric strip impregnated with a chemical herbicide.

In a particularly preferred embodiment, the invention is directed to a drip irrigation hose having an interior surface, an exterior surface, a water supply passage and a plurality of flow regulating channels that are smaller than the water supply passage. The flow regulating channels each comprise an inlet section comprising one or more openings connecting the water supply passage to that flow regulating channel, and an outlet section comprising one or more openings connecting that flow regulating channel to the exterior of the hose. The hose further comprises one or more root deterrent strips as described above attached to the interior surface or the exterior surface of the hose at or near the openings of the inlet section or the outlet section.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

These and other features and advantages of the present invention will be better understood by reference to the following detailed description when considered in conjunction with the accompanying drawings wherein:

FIG. 1 is a cross-sectional view of a drip irrigation hose having a flow regulating channel between its margins.

FIG. 2 is a top sectional view of a flow regulating channel according to the invention.

1 FIG. 3 is a schematic block diagram of the method for making a drip irrigation hose of the continuous emitter type.

FIG. 4 is a schematic view of a portion of the film path for making a drip irrigation hose in accordance with the invention.

5 FIG. 5A is a side partial cutaway view of an irrigation hose according to the invention having a longitudinal root deterrent strip attached to the exterior of the hose over the outlets.

FIG. 5B is a side partial cutaway view of an irrigation hose according to the invention having a root deterrent strip wrapped around the exterior of the hose over the outlets.

10 FIG. 5C is a side partial cutaway view of an irrigation hose according to the invention having a longitudinal root deterrent strip attached to the interior of the hose over the outlets.

FIG. 5D is a side partial cutaway view of an irrigation hose according to the invention having a root deterrent strip wrapped around the interior of the hose over the outlets.

FIG. 5E is a side partial cutaway view of an irrigation hose according to the invention having a longitudinal root deterrent strip attached to the exterior of the hose near the outlets.

15 FIG. 5F is a side partial cutaway view of an irrigation hose according to the invention having a root deterrent strip wrapped around the exterior of the hose near the outlets.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

20 The present invention employs a root deterrent strip attached to the interior or exterior of the hose to discourage root intrusion. The root deterrent strip comprises a fabric strip impregnated with a chemical herbicide. The invention provides a mechanism for keeping the herbicide in close proximity to the outlet(s) of the hose without blocking water flow.

25 As shown in FIGs. 1, 2 and 5, a flexible drip irrigation hose 10 (commonly referred to as "tape") is made from an elongated strip of plastic film 14, which is typically 4 to 15 mil thick. The film 14 can be made of any suitable material, for example, a laminate of high density polyethylene or polypropylene. Film 14 is folded longitudinally to form overlapping inner and outer longitudinal margins 16 and 18, thus creating a seam. A first longitudinal rib 20 partially seals margins 16 and 18. A second longitudinal rib 22, outboard of rib 20, completely seals margins 16 and 18. Ribs 20 and 22 contain a repeating longitudinal pattern that defines a series of small flow regulating channels 24 along the length of the hose 10. By virtue of the longitudinal fold in film 14, the interior surface of film 14 defines a relatively large water supply passage 26. The water supply passage 26 is connected to a source of water under pressure, not shown. Examples of such constructions are described in U.S. Patent Nos. 4,247,051, 4,984,739, 5,282,578, and 5,522,551, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference.

30
35 As shown in FIG. 2, the flow regulating channels 24 (i.e., emitter regions) each have an inlet section 28, a turbulent flow section 30, and an outlet section 32. For each flow regulating channel 24, the inlet section 28 comprises one or more inlet openings to allow water to flow from the water supply passage 26 into the flow regulating channel 24. In the depicted embodiment,

1 the inlet section 28 comprises a plurality of pillars 36 between which are formed openings 38. As would be recognized by one skilled in the art, the inlet section 28 can have any other design that permits water to enter the flow regulating channel 24 from the water supply passage 26.

5 The flow regulating channels 24 each have a much smaller cross-sectional area than the water supply passage 26. The cross-sectional area of the water supply passage 26 is preferably from about 20 to 300 times, more preferably from about 50 to 200 times, larger than the cross-sectional area of the flow regulating channel 24. Accordingly, each flow regulating channel 24 creates a passage between the water supply passage 26 and the outside of the hose 10 that controls the flow rate of the water flowing through it.

10 The flow regulating channels 24 can have any other design as is known in the art. For example, the turbulent flow section 30 can be formed of a series of chevrons, by a series of walls that form a serpentine path, or by any other configuration that creates turbulent flow. However, the turbulent flow section can be omitted if desired and replaced with a straight-path channel.

15 FIGs. 3 and 4 depict a method for making the drip irrigation hose shown in FIG. 1. As represented by a block 70, the outlets 44 are first formed in film 14. Preferably each outlet 44 comprises a single longitudinal slit in the film 14, but could also be any other type of slit. A preferred method and apparatus for forming a knife-formed longitudinal slit outlet is described in U.S. Patent No. 5,522,551, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference. Any other suitable method known in the art for providing outlets can also be used. For example, the
20 surface of one of the outer margins 18 can be deformed to form protrusions in the film surface, and thereafter the protrusions are sliced from the film to form outlets, as described in U.S. Patent No. 5,123,984, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference. Alternatively, the outlet section can comprises a plurality of pillars between which are formed outlet openings, in a manner similar to the inlet section described above.

25 As represented by block 72, the inner margin 16 is then folded. As represented by block 74, one or more beads are laid on the outside surface of the inner margin 14 by one or more extrusion nozzles. As represented by block 76, a pattern is formed in ribs 20 and 22 by a molding wheel. As represented by block 78, outer margin 18 is then folded onto inner margin 16, with the formed ribs therebetween. Finally, as represented by block 80, flow regulating passage 24
30 is finished by passing inner margin 16, outer margin 18, and the ribs 20 and 22 through the nip of a form wheel and a backing wheel to set precisely the height of the ribs.

FIG. 4 illustrates an assembly station for performing the above-described steps. One or more extrusion nozzles 82 deposit one or more continuous longitudinal beads 84 (in the form of hot molten glue or resin) on the outside surface of the inner margin 16. The film 14 is passed
35 through the nip of a rotating molding wheel 86 and a rotating backing wheel 88. The molding wheel 86 contains a pattern of depressions 90 corresponding to the desired raised rib pattern, i.e., a pattern such as that shown in FIG. 2. In the nip, beads 84 are shaped by molding wheel 86 to form the desired bead pattern on film 14 for the entire length of the hose 10. After leaving the

1 nip of wheels **86** and **88**, the external margin **18** of the film **14** is folded by a guide **92** to overlap
the inner margin **16**. Finally, the overlapped margins of the film **14** pass through the nip of a
form wheel **94** and a second backing wheel **96**. The form wheel **94** has a groove **98** that
depresses the ribs formed by the beads **84** to set the rib height at a specified value that determines
5 the flow rate of the hose **10**. During the described process, the film **14** is continuously
transported by a conventional means, not shown. For example, the disclosed wheels could be
driven, or other drive wheels could be provided, to transport the film.

Also, as would be recognized by one skilled in the art, the flow regulating channels **24**
need not be formed in the margins **16** and **18** of the hose **10**, but can be provided at any location
10 on the hose. For example, it is known in the art to provide discrete flexible emitters (not shown)
that are adhered or otherwise bonded to the interior or exterior of the hose, with each emitter
having an inlet in communication with the water supply passage and an outlet to the exterior of
the hose, as described above. The emitters can be attached to the inside or outside of the hose
by any of several methods including, but not limited to, adhesive bonding, solvent bonding,
15 thermal bonding, and ultrasonic welding. For example, flexible discrete external emitters can
be attached to the exterior of the hose, as described in U.S. Patent Application No. 09/136,354,
entitled "External Emitter for Drip Irrigation Hose", the disclosure of which is incorporated by
reference.

Alternatively, a continuous emitter can be bonded to the hose, where the continuous
emitter has a series of flow regulating channels along its length, inlets in communication with
20 the water supply passage and outlets to the exterior of the hose, as described above. The
continuous emitter can be manufactured into the irrigation hose by bonding it to the hose in any
suitable manner known in the art, such as those described above. For example, the emitter can
be extruded and formed by means of an embossing or imprinting tool. This technique is
25 particularly useful if the hose is also being extruded. Thus, a continuous emitter could be
extruded and formed, then inserted into a die center around which a hose is extruded. As the
emitter and hose are extruded together, the emitter would be formed and adhered to the hose
before it is cooled. Alternatively, the continuous emitter could be extruded and formed offline,
and then fed through a hole in the die through which a hose is extruded. In another embodiment,
30 the continuous emitter could be fed and joined to a long continuous strip that is then folded to
form a hose.

In another embodiment, the drip irrigation hose is a hard hose having a plurality of discrete
emitters (i.e., flow regulating channels) provided therein, as is known in the art and described,
for example, in U.S. Patent Nos. 5,111,996 and 4,824,025.

35 A root deterrent strip **40** is attached to the interior or exterior of the hose **10** at or near the
outlet(s) **32** to discourage root intrusion. The root deterrent strip **40** can be attached to the hose
by any suitable means, such as bonding or, wrapping the fabric around the hose. FIG. 5A shows
a root deterrent strip **40** attached longitudinally to the exterior of the hose **10** over the outlets **32**.

1 FIG. 5B shows a root deterrent strip 40 wrapped around the exterior of the hose 10 over the
outlets 32. FIG. 5C shows a root deterrent strip 40 attached longitudinally to the interior of the
hose 10 over the outlets 32. FIG. 5D shows a root deterrent strip 40 wrapped around the interior
of the hose 10 over the outlets. FIG. 5E shows a root deterrent strip 40 attached longitudinally
5 to the exterior of the hose 10 near, but not covering, the outlets 32. FIG. 5F shows wrapped
around the exterior of the hose 10 near, but not covering, the outlets 32. As would be recognized
by one skilled in the art, the root deterrent strip 40 could also be attached longitudinally to the
interior of the hose 10 or wrapped around the interior of the hose near, but not covering, the
outlets 32. An advantage of using an externally attached root deterrent strip 40 is that the strip
10 acts as a wick to more uniformly distribute the water along the path of the hose. Alternatively,
the root deterrent strip 40 can be positioned partially to cover the inlets to the flow regulating
channel 24.

The root deterrent strip 40 comprises a fabric strip impregnated with a chemical herbicide.
The fabric is sufficiently porous to allow water to flow through it so that it may cover the interior
or exterior of the outlet opening(s) and sufficiently absorbent to hold the herbicide. Suitable
fabrics for use in connection with the present invention include, but are not limited to, felt,
plastic, and nonwovens (natural and synthetic), preferably needle-punched nonwovens. Any
suitable chemical herbicide, i.e., root intrusion deterrent composition, can be employed.
Preferred compositions include dinitroanilines, such as TREFLAN™ (trifluralin, 4-
20 trifluoromethyl-2,6-dinitro-N,N-dipropyl aniline), SONALAN™ (ethalfluralin), PROWL™
(pendimethalin), and oryzalin (4-sulfonamido-2,6-dinitro-N,N-dipropyl aniline), dinoseb (2,4-
dinitro-6-sec-butyl phenol), bromoxynil (3,5-dibromo-4-hydroxybenzonitrile), paraquat (1,1'-
dimethyl-4,4'-bipyridinium dichloride), bromoxynil octanoic acid ester (3,5-dibromo-4-
hydroxybenzonitrile octanoic acid ester), TBA (2,3,6-trichlorobenzoic acid), 2,4-D (2,4-
25 dichlorophenoxy acetic acid), and copper hydroxide. In a particularly preferred embodiment, the
root deterrent strip 40 is made of Tex-R™ Agroliner (commercially available from Texel,
Henderson, North Carolina).

The above-described embodiments of the invention are only considered to be preferred
and illustrative of the inventive concepts. The scope of the invention is not to be restricted to
30 such embodiments. For example, as would be recognized by one skilled in the art, the invention
is not limited to hoses having flow regulating channels, as described above, but can be used with
any hose having a water supply passage and outlets along the length of the hose. Various and
numerous other arrangements may be devised by one skilled in the art without departing from
the spirit and scope of the invention.

1 CLAIMS:

1. A drip irrigation hose having an interior surface, an exterior surface and a water supply passage extending therethrough, the hose comprising:

5 one or more outlets connecting the water supply passage to the exterior of the hose; and
one or more root deterrent strips attached to the interior surface or the exterior surface of the hose at or near the outlets, each root deterrent strip comprising a fabric strip impregnated with a chemical herbicide.

10 2. A drip irrigation hose according to claim 1, wherein the one or more root deterrent strips are attached to the exterior surface of the hose.

15 3. A drip irrigation hose according to claim 1, wherein the one or more root deterrent strips are attached to the interior surface of the hose.

4. A drip irrigation hose according to claim 1, wherein the one or more root deterrent strips are attached longitudinally to a surface of the hose.

20 5. A drip irrigation hose according to claim 1, wherein the one or more root deterrent strips are wrapped around a surface of the hose.

6. A drip irrigation hose according to claim 1, wherein each root deterrent strip covers at least one outlet.

25 7. A drip irrigation hose according to claim 1, wherein each root deterrent strip comprises felt.

8. A drip irrigation hose according to claim 1, wherein each root deterrent strip comprises a needle-punched non-woven fabric.

30 9. A drip irrigation hose according to claim 1, wherein the chemical herbicide is selected from the group consisting of trifluralin, ethalfluralin, pendimethalin, oryzalin, dinoseb, bromoxynil, paraquat, bromoxynil octanoic acid ester, 2,3,6.-trichlorobenzoic acid, 2,4-dichlorophenoxy acetic acid, and copper hydroxide.

35 10. A drip irrigation hose according to claim 1 wherein the chemical herbicide is trifluralin.

1 11. A drip irrigation hose according to claim 1 wherein the chemical herbicide is copper hydroxide.

5 12. A drip irrigation hose according to claim 1 made of a flexible film.

13. A drip irrigation hose according to claim 1, wherein the hose is a hard hose.

10 14. A drip irrigation hose having an interior surface, an exterior surface, a water supply passage and a plurality of flow regulating channels that are smaller than the water supply passage, the flow regulating channels each comprising:

an inlet section comprising one or more openings connecting the water supply passage to that flow regulating channel, and

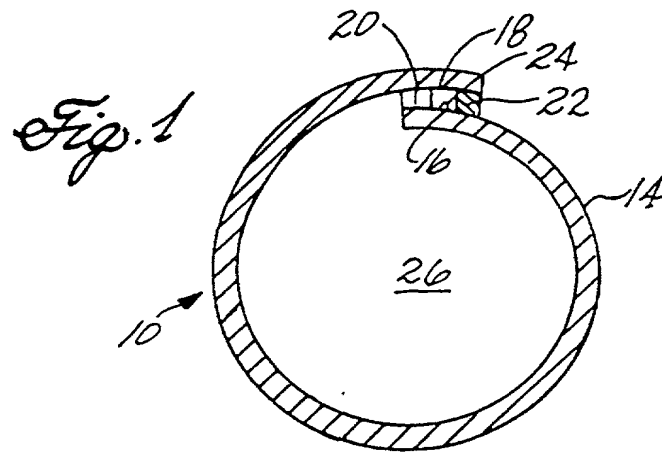
an outlet section comprising one or more openings connecting that flow regulating channel to the exterior of the hose;

15 wherein the hose further comprises one or more root deterrent strips attached to the interior surface or the exterior surface of the hose at or near the openings of the inlet section or the outlet section, each root deterrent strip comprising a fabric strip impregnated with a chemical herbicide.

20 15. A drip irrigation hose according to claim 14, wherein the one or more root deterrent strips are at or near the openings of the outlet section.

25 16. A drip irrigation hose according to claim 14, wherein the one or more root deterrent strips are attached longitudinally to the exterior of the hose over the openings of the outlet section.

30 17. A drip irrigation hose according to claim 14, wherein the root deterrent strip comprises a needle-punched non-woven fabric impregnated with copper hydroxide.



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Fig. 2

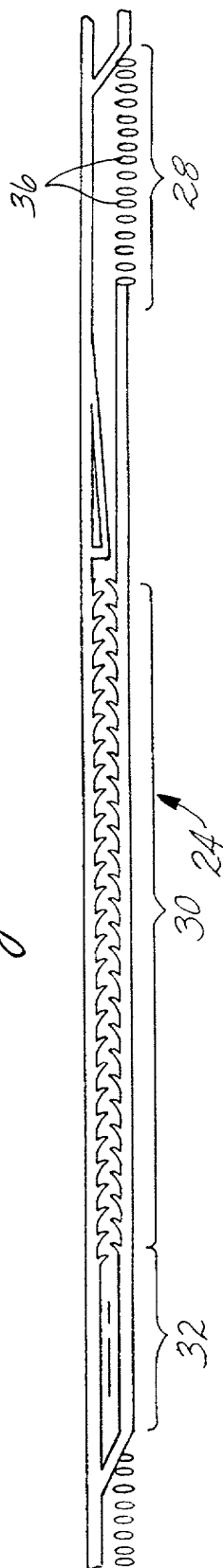


Fig. 3

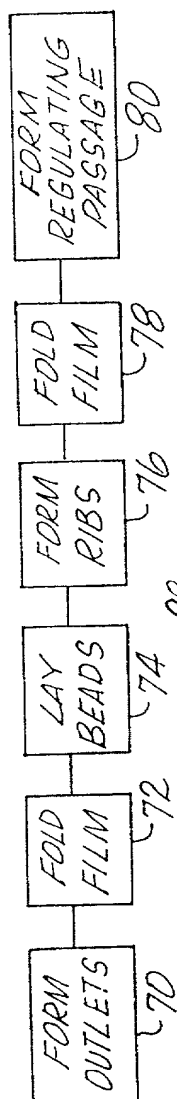


Fig. 1

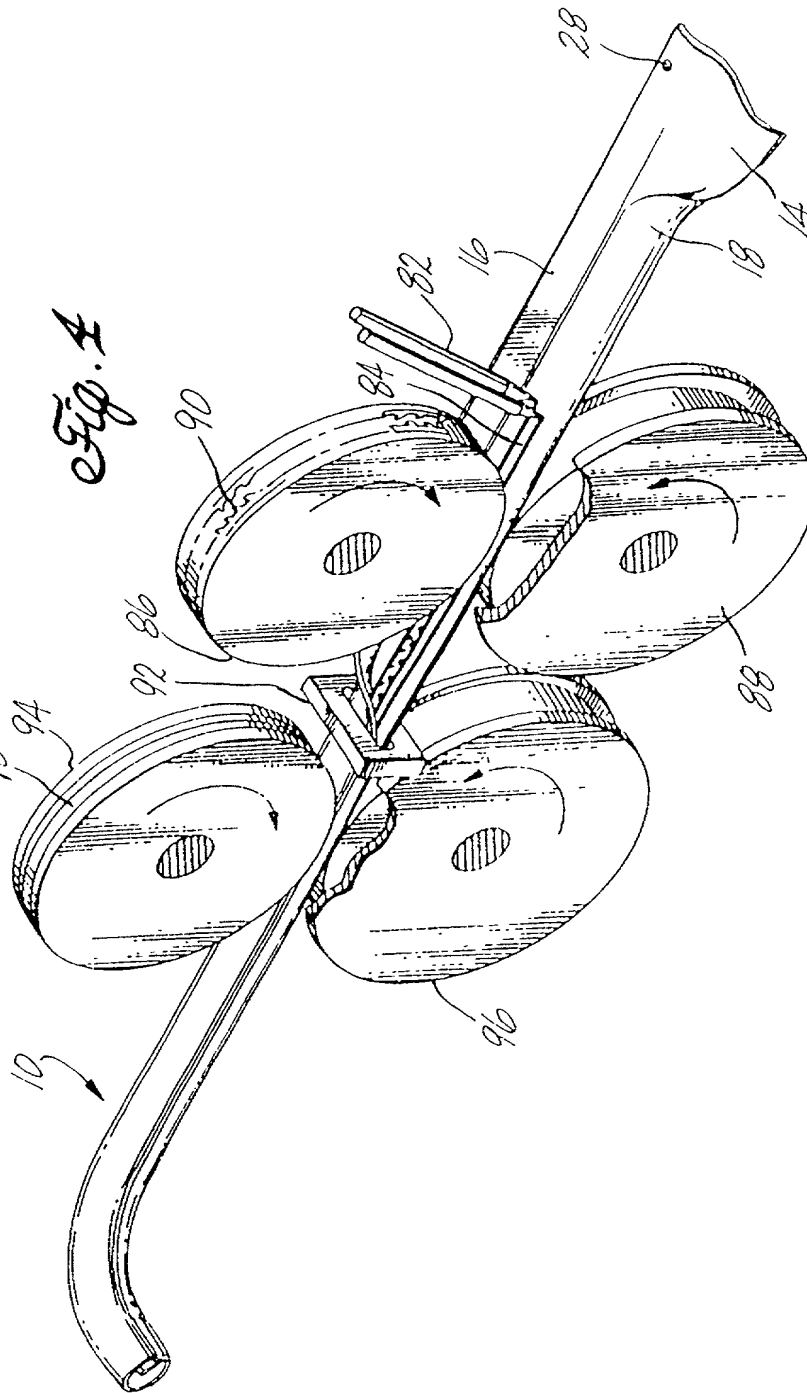


FIG. 5A

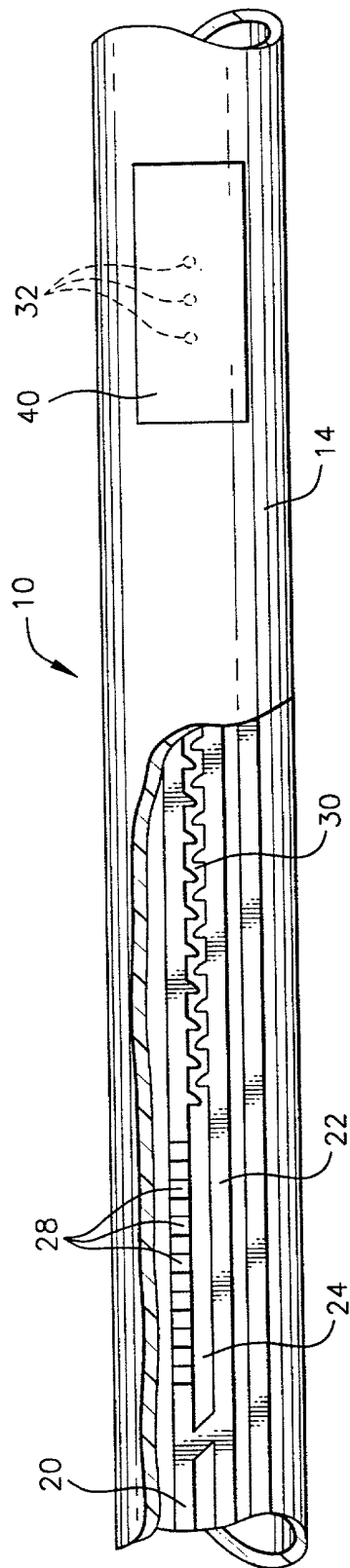


FIG. 5B

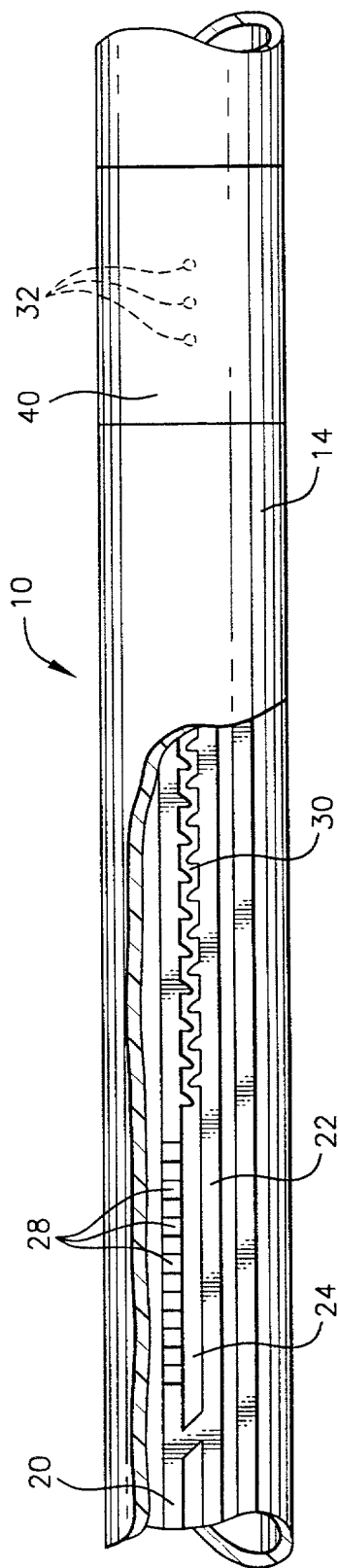


FIG. 5C

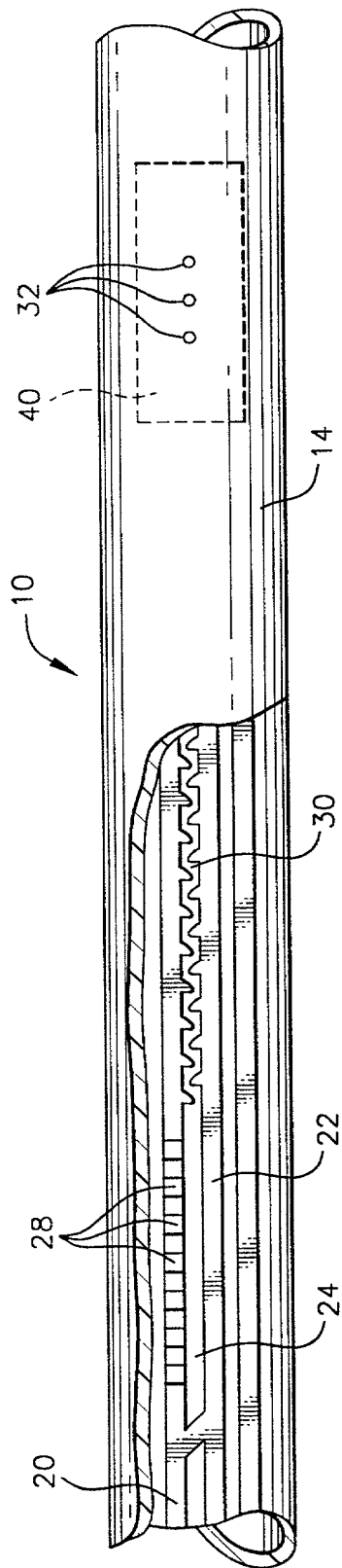


FIG. 5D

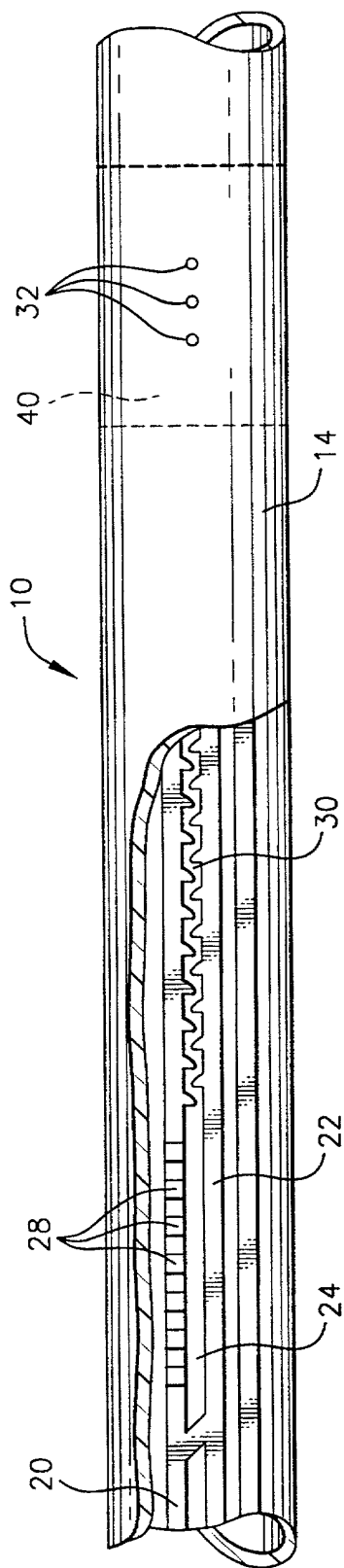


FIG. 5E

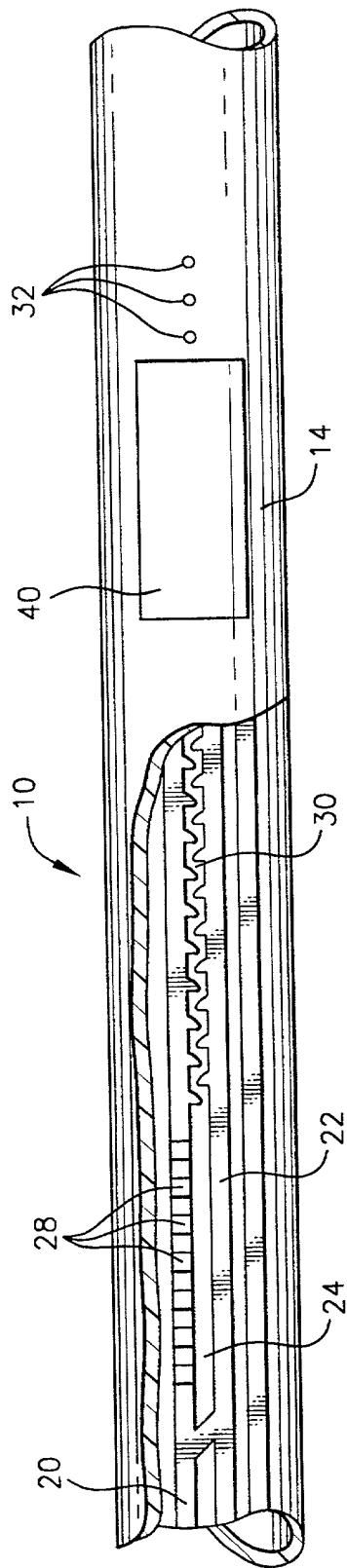
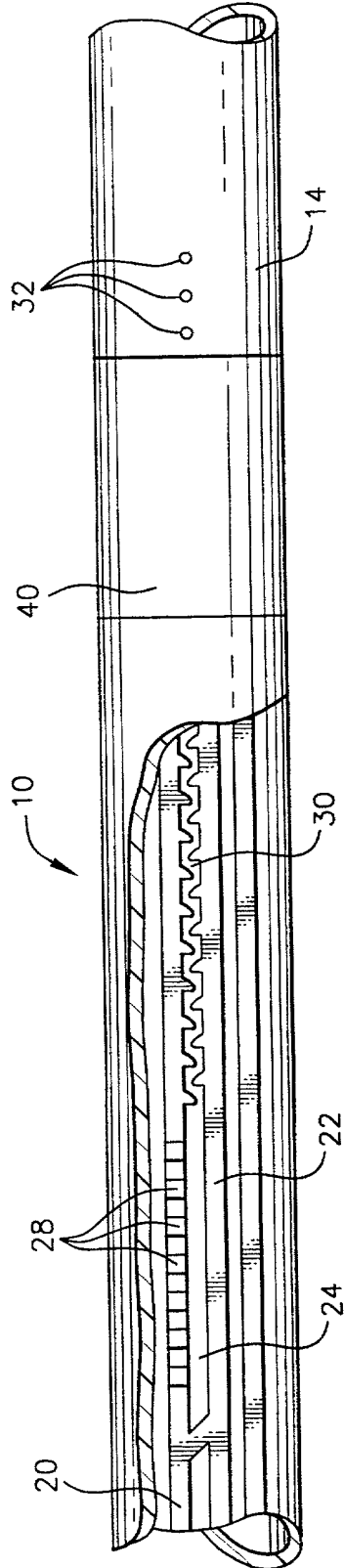


FIG. 5F



Rev. 11/00

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY
FOR PATENT APPLICATION

PATENT

Docket No. : 36483/KMO/T67

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, mailing address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled DRIP IRRIGATION HOSE WITH ROOT DETERRENT STRIP, the specification of which is attached hereto unless the following is checked:

☒ was filed on May 21, 2001 as United States Application Number or PCT International Application Number 09/856,428 and was amended on ____ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56, including for continuation-in-part applications, material information which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of the continuation-in-part application.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or § 365(b) of the foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or § 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or any PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application(s)

<u>Application Number</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Filing Date (day/month/year)</u>	<u>Priority Claimed</u>
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I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

<u>Application Number</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>
60/109,667	20 November 1998

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 120 of any United States application(s), or any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112.

<u>Application Number</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>	<u>Patented/Pending/Abandoned</u>
PCT/US99/27426	PCT	19 November 1999

POWER OF ATTORNEY: I hereby appoint the following attorneys and agents of the law firm CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP to prosecute this application and any international application under the Patent Cooperation Treaty based on it and to transact all business in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office connected

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**DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY
FOR PATENT APPLICATION**

Docket No. 36483/KMO/T67

with either of them in accordance with instructions from the assignee of the entire interest in this application; or from the first or sole inventor named below in the event the application is not assigned; or from __ in the event the power granted herein is for an application filed on behalf of a foreign attorney or agent.

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The authority under this Power of Attorney of each person named above shall automatically terminate and be revoked upon such person ceasing to be a member or associate of or of counsel to that law firm.

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I declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY
FOR PATENT APPLICATION

Docket No. 86488/KMO/T87

NAME OF SOLE OR FIRST INVENTOR

Alan F. Robb

Inventor's Signature X

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KMO:nml
MAIL PASS 1827 1 42501 928 AM

**DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY
FOR PATENT APPLICATION**

Docket No. 86485/KMO/T87

NAME OF SOLE OR FIRST INVENTOR

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NML PAS361817 1-42601 9:09 AM

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**DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY
FOR PATENT APPLICATION**

Docket No. 86483/KMO/T67

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NML PAS351827.1.*-6/28/01 9:58 AM